CLAIMS

1. A method of supporting purchases of content over a public
communication network from a content provider to a customer
5   using an access operator for communication, **characterized by**
the following steps:
- receiving, at a server controlled by the content
provider, a purchase request for content over said public
network from a terminal operated by the customer,
10   - said content provider server sending a purchase
indication message to indicate said purchase request to a
transaction router which has established relationships with
the content provider and with the access operator,
respectively,
15   - said transaction router validating the requested purchase
in response to said purchase indication message, including
checking whether said access operator approves the requested
purchase, and
- said content provider delivering content to the customer
20   according to the requested purchase, if the purchase has
been validated by said transaction router,
such that said access operator can charge the customer for
the purchase.

25   2. A method according to claim 1, **characterized in** that said
access operator charges the customer for the purchase by
means of a subscription bill or a pre-paid card.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized in** that
30   the transaction router sends a status report for the
requested purchase to the content provider, before delivery
of the content.

4. A method according to claim 3, **characterized in** that said purchase status report is sent in response to a purchase status request from the content provider.

5. A method according to any of claims 1-4, **characterized in** that validating the requested purchase further includes identifying said operator based on received customer identification for said customer.

6. A method according to claim 5, **characterized in** that said customer identification is any of: a telephone number, a network address or a subscription identity.

7. A method according to claim 5 or 6, **characterized in** that validating the requested purchase further includes identifying the customer based on said received customer identification.

8. A method according to any of claims 1-7, **characterized in** that validating the requested purchase further includes receiving a purchase confirmation from the customer.

9. A method according to claim 8, **characterized in** that said purchase confirmation is received after prompting the customer in a purchase dialogue with the transaction router.

10. A method according to claim 9, **characterized in** that said purchase dialogue is performed in response to receiving said purchase indication message from the content provider.

11. A method according to any of claims 1-10, **characterized in** that a charge request for the purchase is sent from the content provider to the transaction router when the content has been delivered.

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12. A method according to any of claims 1-11, **characterized in** that each of said established relationships includes a business agreement and necessary technical interfaces.

10 13. A transaction router having an established relationship with each of a plurality of content providers and each of a plurality of access operators, respectively, **characterized in** that the transaction router is adapted to act as a common payment mediator between said operators and said content
15 providers for content purchases over a public communication network, the transaction router comprising:

   means for receiving a purchase indication message from a content provider server, said purchase indication message indicating that a content purchase is requested over said
20 public network from a terminal operated by a customer using an access operator for communication, and

   means for validating said requested purchase in response to the received purchase indication message, such that said content provider can deliver content to the customer
25 according to the requested purchase if the purchase has been validated, and the customer can be charged for the purchase by the access operator.

14. A transaction router according to claim 13,
30 **characterized in** that said validation means includes means for identifying said access operator and said customer based on received customer identification, and means for checking

whether the access operator approves the requested purchase,
in order to validate the requested purchase before content
delivery.

5   15. A transaction router according to claim 13 or 14,
characterized in that the transaction router is adapted to
register the purchase including storing purchase
information.

10   16. A transaction router according to any of claims 13-15,
characterized in that the transaction router is adapted to
send a status report for the requested purchase to the
content provider, before content delivery.

15   17. A transaction router according to claim 16,
characterized in that the transaction router is further
adapted to send said purchase status report in response to a
purchase status request from the content provider.

20   18. A transaction router according to any of claims 13-17,
characterized in that the transaction router is further
adapted to receive a charge request for the purchase from
the content provider, as the content has been delivered.

25   19. A transaction router according to any of claims 13-18,
characterized in that the transaction router is further
adapted to perform identification and authorisation of the
customer, in order to validate the requested purchase.

30   20. A transaction router according to any of claims 13-19,
characterized in that the transaction router is further

adapted to receive a purchase confirmation from the customer, in order to validate the requested purchase.

21. A transaction router according to claim 20, **characterized in** that the transaction router is further adapted to prompt the customer in a purchase dialogue to receive said purchase confirmation.

22. A transaction router according to claim 21, **characterized in** that the transaction router is further adapted to perform said purchase dialogue in response to receiving said purchase indication message from the content provider.

23. A transaction router according to any of claims 13-22, **characterized in** that each of said established relationships includes a trusted business agreement and any necessary technical interfaces.